

**Introduction to Africana Studies**  
**Africana Studies 101**  
**Fall 2009, T/TH. 1:00-2:25**  
**Druckenmiller - 004**

Professor Tess Chakkalakal

Office: Adams 213

Office Hours: MTW: 3:00-4:00 (and by appointment, except Friday)

**Course Description:**

This course provides students with an introduction to the major themes and issues relating to the development of African American social and political thought. The course is organized around particular works of African American literature that have been central to the formation of a distinct African American political and cultural identity. Rather than read these texts chronologically we will be reading how specific writers responded to the highly complex, violent, and intimate relationship between "Africa" and "America" as it has developed from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first.

Required readings available for sale and on library reserve:

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative & Other Writings* Ed. Vincent Carretta

W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

Anna Julia Cooper, *A Voice from the South*

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*

Sutton Griggs, *Imperium in Imperio*

Toni Morrison, *Playing in the Dark*

**Evaluation:**

Three Short papers (3-5 pages): 30%

Two In-Class cite passages (Quiz format): 20%

Final Paper (7-9 pages): 20%

One Oral Presentation: 10%

Final Exam (short answer/identification): 10%

Compulsory Attendance and Class Participation: 10%

### **In-Class Presentations:**

Everyone taking the class will be responsible for an oral presentation, 9-11 minutes in length (the time-limit will be enforced). The presentation should focus on one of the readings and will be delivered in conjunction with our discussion of it. The presentations need not be polished “lectures,” but should present the class with a particular argument, angle or take on the meaning of the text in question. Since the texts we will be reading are open to divergent interpretations, the presentation should provide a rigorous defense of the interpretation being presented.

### **Short Papers:**

You will write two short (3-5) page argumentative-style essays on a topic that I will distributed. Topics will be distributed two weeks before the deadline. You are welcome to discuss outline of your papers with me during office hours but I do not read entire drafts. After I have returned your first paper to you, your following two papers will be read first by a writing assistant. In consultation with your assigned writing assistant you will submit your revised final paper one-week after the original deadline to me for grading. Your writing assistant will help you make necessary revisions concerning the style, technique and over all clarity of your prose. I will have more to say about your assigned writing assistant after I have returned your first paper.

### **Final Paper:**

Your final paper, due to the last day of class, is a research paper. It should be no less than 8 pages and no more than 10. You will be asked to write on a topic of your choice and you will be required to consult external sources on that topic. You should start thinking about your topic in early November, when an outline of your final essay is due. You are encouraged to discuss the topic of your final paper with me during my office hours.

### **Exam:**

There will be a final exam in this course given during the exam period. The exam will cover all address all readings, lectures, and discussions. The best way to “study” for the exam is to come to class, take notes, and, of course, complete all readings.

### **Attendance & Participation:**

This course requires your presence and active participation. Each class will begin with a brief lecture followed by class discussion. These discussions are driven by your thoughtful questions and comments concerning the readings for that day. I will be evaluating you on the basis of your answers to my questions, your own questions, and your overall ability to engage in conversation with members of the class on the topic under discussion.

## **Schedule of Classes:**

Sept. 3: What is Africana Studies?  
Wheatley "On Being Brought to America"  
Cullen, "Heritage"

### **Slavery in American Literature and Culture**

September 8: Slavery and the U.S. Constitution  
Douglass, "What to the Slave is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?"  
Brown, "A Lecture Delivered before the Female Anti-Slavery Society of Salem"

September 10:

Patterson, *Slavery and Social Death* (e-book, available from Library on-line, you are responsible for Ch. I only: "The Internal Relations of Slavery")

Sept. 15:

Gilroy, "The Black Atlantic" (On E-reserve)  
Morrison, "black matters" (from *Playing in the Dark*)

### **"Being a Slave"**

Sept. 17 [Oral Presentations Begin]:

The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano  
(Carretta, "Introduction" and Front Matter, Ch. I-II)  
PRESENTATION: SIMONE SANDERS

Sept. 22: *Interesting Narrative* (Ch. III-VI)

Sept. 24: *Interesting Narrative* (Ch. VII- Ch. X)

Sept. 29: *Interesting Narrative* (Ch. XI-XII)

PAPER #1 DUE

### **Emancipation**

Oct. 1: "Emancipation Proclamation," the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments (On E-reserve and on-line)

Johnson, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (On e-Reserve)

Oct. 6: Washington, *Up From Slavery* (Ch. I, II, III, XIV) (On E-Reserve)

### **QUIZ**

#### **Jim Crow**

Oct. 8: Chesutt, "The Disfranchisement of the Negro" (On E-Reserve)

Oct. 13: No Class – FALL BREAK

**DRAFT OF PAPER #2 DUE**

Oct. 15: Griggs, *Imperium in Imperio* (Ch. I-X)

Oct. 20: Griggs, *Imperium in Imperio* (Ch. XI-XX)

Oct. 22:

NO CLASS

Oct. 27, Cooper, *A Voice From the South* (pp. 9-47)

FINAL VERSION OF PAPER #2 DUE

Oct. 29, Cooper, *A Voice from the South* (pp. 149-174, 228-285)

Nov. 3: DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (Ch. 1-5)

**QUIZ**

**The New Negro/Harlem Renaissance**

November 5:

Schomburg, "The Negro Digs up His Past" (On E-Reserve)

Wright, "Blueprint for Negro Writing" (On E-Reserve)

Nov. 10:

Hurston, "Characteristics of Negro Expression" (On E-Reserve)

PRESENTATION: CORETTA KING (specify which)

Johnson, "The Book of American Negro Poetry" (On E-Reserve)

**Making a Modern Black Identity**

Nov. 12: Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (Ch. 1 &5)

Nov. 17: Ellison, "The Art of Romare Bearden" (meet in Art Museum)

Karenga, "Black Art" (On E-Reserve)

**Integration**

Nov. 19: Loving v. Virginia/ Brown v. Board of Education

(On E-reserve)

Nov. 24: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" (film viewing scheduled Nov. 23 at 7 pm in Sills)- "Black Men -White Women: A Philosophical View" (On E-Reserve)

**PAPER #3 DUE**

Nov. 26: No Class - THANKSGIVING

Dec. 1: Arendt, "Reflections on Little Rock" (On E-Reserve)

Baldwin, "Notes of a Native Son" (On E-Reserve)

Dec. 3: Ellison, "Some Questions and Some Answers"

*Invisible Man* – Prologue, Chapter 1, and Epilogue. (On E-Reserve)

DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE

**The Future of Africana Studies**

Dec. 8: Morrison, “Romancing the Shadow” – from *Playing in the Dark*  
Chesnutt, “The Future American” (On E-Reserve)

Dec. 10 Appiah, “Out of Africa: *Topologies of Nativism*” (On E-Reserve)  
FINAL PAPER DUE

FINAL EXAM – DECEMBER 19